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**NEWS RELEASE**

# Judd Gregg

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **Children & Families Protection Bill Ready For President's Signature**

*Senate Passes Conference Report on CAPTAREauthorization*

WASHINGTON - - A bill that aims to protect children and families from neglect and abuse passed the Senate late yesterday in the final step before Congress sends the legislation to President Bush for his signature. The Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2003, negotiated by Chairman Judd Gregg (R-NH) of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions and Chairman John Boehner (R-OH) of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, aims to prevent domestic violence by improving links between agencies serving vulnerable children and encourages new training and better qualifications for child and family service workers.

"Of the issues we must handle here in Congress, none are more significant than protecting our children from neglect and abuse," said Senator Gregg. "Better trained and better qualified family service workers will help reduce abuse in troubled homes. Better integration between family agencies and the courts will help keep kids from getting lost in the bureaucratic shuffle. These provisions and this entire bill will help protect children and families. I am proud to send this bill to the president for his signature," said Gregg.

### **The Keeping Children and Families Safe Act:**

Reauthorizes the vital Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA).

Encourages new training and better qualifications for child and family service workers.

Encourages links between agencies to improve services to children.

Facilitates the adoption of children with special needs by working to eliminate inter-jurisdictional barriers to adoption.

Provides victims of domestic violence greater access to shelters in times of emergency.

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